IN THE CLAIMS:

For the Examiner's convenience, a complete listing of the claims is provided below.

1. (Withdrawn) A recording medium comprising a base material and an ink-receiving layer provided on said base material and containing a particulate material;

said particulate material containing particles of crystalline aluminum oxide;

said ink-receiving layer being obtained by applying a coating solution containing said particulate material to said base material followed by drying to form a coating layer, applying water to the coating layer to cause swelling and pressing the surface thereof against a heated mirror-surface drum to conduct drying treatment;

wherein the specular gloss of the surface of said ink-receiving layer is not less than 20% as measured at 20°.

2. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said particulate material contains particulate aluminum oxide by not less than 70wt%.

3. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said particulate material contains particulate aluminum oxide by not less than 90wt%.

4. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said ink-receiving layer contains a binder and the mixing ratio of said particulate aluminum oxide to said binder is within a range of between 5 : 1 and 25 : 1 by weight.

5. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the average particle diameter of said aluminum oxide particles is not more than 0.3μm and not less than 80% of the total aluminium oxide particles has a particle diameter of not more than 1.0μm.

6. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the BET specific surface area of the aluminum oxide is between 100 and 160 m^2/g.

7. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said base material comprises a fibrous substrate and a surface layer containing barium sulfate provided on the fibrous substrate and said ink-receiving layer is provided on said surface layer.

8. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 7, wherein said fibrous substrate weighs 150 to $180g/m^2$.

9. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the Stöckigt sizing degree of said fibrous substrate is not less than 200 seconds.

10. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 1, further comprising an alumina-containing layer provided on the surface of said base material opposite to the surface onto which said ink-receiving layer is provided.

11. (Withdrawn) An image-forming method of forming an image by applying a recording liquid to the surface of the ink-receiving layer of the recording medium according to claim 1 in response to recording information.

12. (Withdrawn) An image-forming method according to claim 11, wherein said application of the recording liquid is performed by means of an ink-jet recording system.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a recording medium comprising a base material and an ink-receiving layer provided on said base material and containing a particulate material, comprising the steps of:

producing a coating layer by applying a coating solution containing said particulate material containing particles of crystalline aluminum oxide having a plate-like profile to said base material followed by drying;

applying water to the coating layer to cause swelling; and

pressing the surface of the swelled coating layer against a heated mirror-surface drum to produce said ink-receiving layer so as to have a specular gloss of the surface thereof not less than 20% as measured at 20°,

wherein said particulate material contains said particulate aluminum oxide at not less than 70 wt %,

wherein said ink-receiving layer contains a binder, and the mixing ratio of said particulate aluminum oxide to said binder is within a range of between 5:1 and 25:1 by weight,

wherein said base material comprises a fibrous substrate having a surface layer thereon,

wherein said fibrous substrate has a Stöckigt sizing degree of 100 seconds or more, and

wherein the average particle diameter of said aluminum oxide particles is not more than 0.3 μm and not less than 80% of the total aluminium oxide particles have a particle diameter of not more than 1.0 μm.

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) A manufacturing method according to claim 13, wherein said particulate material contains particulate aluminum oxide at not less than 90 wt%.

Claims 16 and 17 (Cancelled).

18. (Original) A manufacturing method according to claim 13, wherein the BET specific surface area of the aluminum oxide is between 100 and 160 m^2/g.

19. (Original) A manufacturing method according to claim 13, wherein said base material comprises a fibrous substrate and a surface layer containing barium sulfate provided on the fibrous substrate and said ink-receiving layer is provided on said surface layer.

20. (Original) A manufacturing method according to claim 19, wherein said fibrous substrate weighs 150 to 180 g/m^2.

21. (Previously Presented) A manufacturing method according to claim 13, wherein the Stöckigt sizing degree of said fibrous substrate is not less than 200 seconds.

22. (Original) A manufacturing method according to claim 13, further comprising:

a step of providing an alumina-containing layer on the surface of said base material opposite to the surface onto which said ink-receiving layer is provided.

23. (Previously Presented) A manufacturing method according to claim 13, wherein the coating amount of the ink-receiving layer is 20 g/m^2 or higher in terms of dry solid matter.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an ink jet recording medium comprising a base material and an ink-receiving layer provided on said base material and containing a particulate material, comprising applying a coating solution containing said

particulate material containing particles of crystalline aluminum oxide having a plate-like profile to said base material followed by drying to form a coating layer,

wherein the average particle diameter of said aluminum oxide particles is not more than 0.3 μm and not less than 80% of the total aluminum oxide particles have a particle diameter of not more than 1.0 μm.

25. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording medium obtained by the manufacturing method of claim 24.